

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

March 28, 2012

Present:

**Linda Noble Mike Babbitt Carl Brunetti Claudette Lussier Paul
DiDomenico**

Richard Foster Maria Marcello Bob Turner Hagop Jawharjian

Absent:

William DiBiasio Domenic Ricci Hagop Jawharjian

Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:33 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster to change the order of the meeting so that the School Department Technology Professional Development Plan Presentation would be heard first.

**School Department Technology Professional Development Plan
Presentation**

Georgia Fortunato and many members of the School Department and School Administration were present.

Melinda Smith, Curriculum Coordinator gave a presentation of how the schools plan to implement Professional Development.

The objective of the Professional Development will be: Lincoln Public Schools will support teachers to integrate technology in meaningful ways into their daily instructional practice.

The Goals of the Professional Development will be:

Curriculum Support

Assessments – starting this Fall to track progress

Data Analysis/student tracking

Growth Model – how are they growing as students

And EPSS or Teacher Evaluation System

There was a Teacher Technology Survey which was completed by 91% of faculty on March 14th.

Some of the statistics that came from that survey and were mentioned in the presentation are as follows:

89% of those who took the survey say they are intermediate or above in ability to use technology.

62% said they have experience with ELMO.

In the use of a Doc Camera, 25.7% use one daily, 48.7% said they never do.

40.1% would use an LCD projector often if they could

29.2% disagree that there is adequate access to technology currently

The Professional Development Plan is a 2-year plan which will include a layout of what they plan to do for each month of those two

years.

For example, in the first year they plan to have an assessment in June to see where the teachers are at in ability and use of technology, followed by 2 day set aside in August for focusing on those areas that most needed work based on the assessment.

Michael Kerwin, Technology Consultant, presented budgetary information for the Professional Development Program which would cost \$141,628 over that 2-year period and would include use of some Title II funds and the use of Learning.com.

The Budget Board had some questions once the presentations were done:

The Budget Board asked if the schools had narrowed down how many classrooms actually need the new technology, particularly at the High School.

Georgia Fortunato replied that after taking out the 10 modular classrooms, they would need 60 classrooms which would each get the \$4,800 per room plan.

Michael Kerwin noted that they do feel they need the technology in each of those rooms, including chorus, etc.

The Budget Board noted that in the past there was technology that was purchased that was not used, and they questioned what would happen if a teacher was not using the technology as they were supposed to.

Georgia Fortunato noted that there would be accountability and that it would be taken into account in teacher evaluations because to be effective, teachers must be using technology.

She also noted that the teachers do want to use the technology that they have not had before, which is where the Professional Development will help them incorporate it.

The Budget Board questioned how much of the existing technology would be usable.

Mike Kerwin felt they could probably scale back the number of carts and it seems more logical for the Middle and High School levels to have the more portable format with a smaller supplement at the elementary level.

Based on all of this, Mike Kerwin said it may be possible to take \$500,000-600,000 off of the initial proposal.

The Budget Board asked if there was an inventory list of what the schools current have for equipment.

They have been putting it together and will have it by the end of the week.

The Budget Board questioned how some of the smaller libraries, such as at Lonsdale, would fit the proposed 30 computers.

Mike Kerwin noted that the middle open space in the room would be used for the computers, the book inventory would be pruned and modified and pushed to the edges.

Georgia Fortunato noted that she did not have a problem with selling or auctioning any equipment that is no longer usable.

There are currently 10-15 hours per year of Professional Development available.

The Professional Development plan would use Learning.com, teachers who would be already trained (20%) as well as faculty meetings and would make it mandatory.

The Budget Board would like an inventory of the current equipment, including usage, value, etc.

Public Comment

There was no public comment or questions at the time.

Recess

The Budget Board took a brief recess and then reconvened

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of March 22nd were distributed for review.

Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, to approve the minutes.

The minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0 with Linda Noble and Hagop Jawharjian abstaining because they were not present on

March 22nd.

Correspondence

There was electronic correspondence received by the Budget Board.

The Budget Board corresponded with the Town Administrator regarding the Library because they felt that all additional funds being used for the Library addition, such as grants and donations, should be placed in a resolution for review of the Financial Town Meeting.

The Town Administrator noted that it is not in the purview of the Financial Town Meeting to approve such funds, but it would be the Library Board because the library funds are general funds.

Based upon the Town Solicitor's opinion he would not support placing those funds in a resolution because all funds for the library addition have already been lawfully approved and allocated.

The Town Administrator discussed the responsibilities of the Budget Board, other elected officials, and the procedure of the Financial Town Meeting in his correspondence.

The Budget Board discussed the library resolution that was passed at the Financial Town Meeting last year, which did not show the actual cost including grants, donations and impact fees and the fact that they believe the taxpayers need to be made aware that those additional funds were spent.

They discussed having something in the budget message that would thank the donations and grants and at the same time make the

taxpayers aware of that.

The Budget Board discussed the Sewer Enterprise Fund and the wording in the loan agreement and the charter regarding the funds.

In meeting with the Town Council at their next meeting Thursday, March 29th, the Budget Board wanted to ask them the following:

-They would like to talk about the Town Administrator's raise, and whether the Town Council intends to request one since he cannot by charter this year.

-The Budget Board would like to talk to them about their expense budget because it has not been spent historically

-The Budget Board would like to talk to them about more details regarding the resolution they requested for a canopy on the bocce court at the Senior Center.

-The Budget Board would like to know if there are there any other resolutions that they're bring forth to the Financial Town Meeting.

-The Budget Board would like to know if there are any plans to complete codification.

-The Budget Board would like more information about settlements and what kind of exposure the Town is facing.

The Budget Board discussed supplemental resolutions for the additional expenditures at Manville Park and Chet Nichols and whether they should be put forth to the Financial Town Meeting and whether if the Town Council does not put them in, they should

consider doing so.

School Department Technology Professional Development Plan Presentation

The Budget Board discussed the budget of Professional Development for the technology plan, which would also include some Title II funds. It was noted that while it does seem that there was collaboration with vendors to come up with a plan for the Professional Development, it was noted that not all would be mandatory, and it seemed unlikely that all teachers would use it.

The Budget Board discussed enforcement of the Professional Development Plan, and how that would occur, particularly for teachers that are doing a good job in every other area but are not using the new technology as part of the curriculum.

The Budget Board discussed that any technology equipment that currently exists in the schools should be evaluated, and if it is usable that would mean less that would need to be purchased, or if it will not work with the new plan it could be sold to offset costs of the new equipment.

The Schools would also be able to take at least 10% off of the cost of the new equipment if they purchased it all at once in bulk.

In discussion of whether the Budget Board would support and recommend the funding of the technology plan, the general consensus seemed to be that they would support it on a level lower than the \$3.2 million requested.

Final voting on the Budget Board's recommendation will not occur

until more information has been received from the School Superintendent.

The Budget Board would like more information about the modular classrooms at the High School and what will happen once they are no longer used next year, such as are they going to be physically removed and possibly sold?

They also questioned how much of a savings that would represent in expense such as utilities.

In information from the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding a fire at Lonsdale Park, the Budget Board wanted to know the dollar amount of the loss from that vandalism.

The Budget Board discussed the state education funding formula, and that they are still trying to work out details of exactly how it works and still have questions.

Upcoming meetings of the Budget Board:

Thursday, 3/29 - Public Hearing of the Administrators Proposed Budget followed by Budget Board discussion and vote on Municipal Budget.

Wednesday, April 4th – Vote on School Technology Program and discussion and vote on Education Budget.

Thursday. April 5th - School Capital Resolutions and Municipal Capital

Public Comment

There was no public comment or questions at the time.

Adjourn

Hagop Jawharjian made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.